GOVERNOR DUMMER ACADEMY

SOUTH BYFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Founded in 1763

BULLETIN OF INFORMATION

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Bulletin of Information

The school does not publish a catalog. Most of the information usually contained in a school catalog has been included in this bulletin. In addition, the school publishes annually a special issue of the regular school newspaper, "The Archon," which is designed to supplement this bulletin and to provide, through photographs and actual news articles, a complete picture of the life and activities of the school.

Governor Dummer Academy (we refer to the school informally as *Governor Dummer*) is the oldest boarding school in the United States. It was established in 1763 by Lieutenant-Governor William Dummer of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The property of 470 acres is located in the country about thirty miles north of Boston, just off the Newburyport Turnpike.

The school has been in continuous operation since its founding. The beautiful and historic Mansion House, which Governor Dummer built and to which he brought his bride, is now used as the headmaster's home. And the original little red school house still stands, where taught the celebrated Master Moody and where were educated eighteen members of Congress; two Chief Justices and sixty members of the Massachusetts legislature; nineteen officers in the Revolutionary Army, including four generals and two majors; Rufus King and Nathaniel Gorham, sole signers of the Federal Constitution from Massachusetts; Commodore Preble, conqueror of Tripoli; Samuel Webber, president of Harvard College; and Samuel Phillips, founder of Phillips Academy at Andover.

The small size of the school and the high ratio of masters to students make it possible to treat each boy as an individual and to maintain a friendly, homelike, school life. Governor Dummer is by tradition a democratic American school, whose students come from all social classes and from all sections of the country.

Enrollment is limited to the four classes preceding college and corresponding to the four years of high school. Entrance examinations are sometimes required, but more often a boy is admitted on the basis of his previous school record and after a personal interview with him and his parents.

Governor Dummer is a college-preparatory school of high scholastic standards. Our boys enter college either by College Board examination or by our own certificate, and we are proud of the record made by our graduates.

The school has a vigorous athletic program in which all the boys take part under the coaching and supervision of the masters. We have also a work program, in which again all the boys take an equal part. Each boy takes care of his own room, helps in cleaning his dormitory, takes his turn waiting on table. Besides these regular jobs, each boy is expected to help when and where he is needed. Both the athletic program and the work program are important parts of the school life and serve to strengthen our whole educational program.

EXPENSES

Boarding Tuition: The Academy is incorporated not for profit and is administered by a Board of Trustees. The annual tuition charge for boarding boys, from the open-

ing of school in the fall through the close of the Commencement period in June, is $1,500. It is understood that students are entered for the entire school year, and no deductions are ordinarily made for absence or withdrawal.

Tuition is due and payable in three equal installments as follows: $500 on the opening day of school in September; $500 on December 1 following; and $500 on February 1 following.

Day Students' Expenses: The annual tuition for day pupils is $300, payable in three equal installments on the dates specified in the above paragraph referring to boarding students. By vote of the Board of Trustees, free tuition is now granted to day students who have resided for the last two years or more in the Town of Newbury or the Parish of Byfield. Day pupils are charged for luncheons and Friday-night supper in the school dining room at the rate of $3.00 per week. They are also charged for daily transportation to and from Newburyport when this is arranged by the school.

Books: Textbooks, notebooks and writing supplies may be purchased in the school store. Each boy is required to own a copy of Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Edition* for use in his English course. This may be purchased at the school store or at home. Since a uniform dictionary in all English classes is desired, other editions of Webster's, or dictionaries by other authors, are not acceptable.

Athletic Fee and Uniforms: An athletic fee of $15 will be charged at the beginning of each of the three terms. Since every boy in school participates in the athletic program either as a player or as a manager, this charge will apply to every boy. No additional charge will be made for use of athletic field or gymnasium equipment; for athletic coaching and supervision, which is provided every boy; for attendance at home games; nor for transporting players and managers to other schools for either varsity or junior games.

Further, the school will supply each term athletic uniforms, except shoes, to all boys young and old.

Golf Club: The Ould Newbury Golf Club maintains a good nine-hole golf course on school land, which is rented to the Club by the school. The arrangement provides that members of the school may enjoy the privileges of the course by paying to the Club an annual nominal fee of $10 plus Federal tax.

Miscellaneous: There is no graduation or diploma fee. No charge is made for the regular Saturday evening moving pictures, nor for lectures, concerts, and other entertainments. No extra charge is made for laboratory courses, nor for the use of the laboratories, library, or photographic dark room.

No charge is made for dispensary treatment in the school infirmary except for athletic taping and special medicines. A charge of $3 per day for board and nursing care is made when a boy is in residence at the infirmary. Group insurance, covering this infirmary charge as well as other medical expenses resulting from sickness and accidents, may be secured through the school.

The school driver does necessary errands for boys in Newburyport without charge. A charge of 50c is made for handling baggage, bicycles, skiis, and large boxes which arrive by express. Smaller items arriving by express are delivered at a charge of 25c. When a boy secures permission to visit Newburyport to see the doctor, or for some other important reason, or when the school motor or bus takes boys to and from the train at Newburyport, a charge is made for transportation. When busses are engaged to transport boys to church on Sunday mornings, the cost is charged to the boys.

Deposit Accounts: A deposit of $50 for both boarding and day students is required at the beginning of each school year. Against this deposit are charged school books and supplies, term athletic fees, and such optional or personal expenses as can be handled practicably through the school office. Such optional school expenses or personal expenses might include a subscription to the school paper, charity subscriptions, school dance, transportation to and from Newburyport, optional bus trips, pressing clothes, laundry (if done locally), cartage of trunks, annual $10 fee if boy plays golf, and, if desired, spending money and travelling expenses. The personal expenses which a day student would incur through the school office would probably be limited to the first three or four items listed in the previous sentence.

Spending Money: One or two dollars per week is recommended for spending money, as there is little opportunity for a boy to spend money at the school. Most of the parents arrange to have this allowance issued to the boy by the school and charged to his deposit account. Parents are requested to notify us if they wish the school to issue spending or allowance money to their sons.

Supervision of Deposit Account: The school will be glad to cooperate with parents in limiting the amount of cash (in addition to the allowance) which a boy withdraws from his deposit account, and in restricting personal and optional charges made against his deposit account, but only if requested to do so by the parents. Parents who wish supervision are requested to notify the school.

A statement of the unexpended balance in the deposit account is rendered to the parents each month. Parents will be expected always to keep a balance to their son's credit and to anticipate large withdrawals such as those for travelling expenses. A credit balance at the end of the school year is refundable, but such a balance is usually carried forward to the next year.

Initial Payment: The school should receive a check on or before the opening day of school in September for the first installment of tuition, plus the required deposit of $50 for both boarding and day students, plus the amount of the annual premium for sickness and accident insurance, if this insurance is desired. Checks should be made payable to *Governor Dummer Academy.*

CLOTHING

Besides the usual large pieces of furniture, each boy's room is provided with a rug, window curtains, desk blotter and pad, study lamp, mattress, pillow, couch cover, and all of the bed linen. The school will provide table napkins. A boy's outfit *might* include the following articles:

Two pairs of blankets
Comfortable (if desired)
Two laundry bags
Dark suit (for Sunday vesper services)
School suit or old suit
Sport coat
Flannels or slacks
Light and heavy underwear
Stockings and socks
Dressing gown and slippers
Handkerchiefs
Pajamas
Collars and ties
Face and bath towels
Shoes
Rubbers and arctics
Hat
Heavy sweater
Overcoat, raincoat
Sheepskin coat or mackinaw
Shirts (including several plain white shirts which should be worn at dinner.)

Parents are requested to have their son's clothing supplied at home during vacations. All clothing, including shoes and rubbers, all bedding and laundry bags, should be plainly marked with the name in full.

As stated above, the school supplies athletic uniforms, except shoes. Each boy, however, should bring with him any athletic equipment he may have, especially football shoes and gymnasium or tennis shoes.

Laundry: The school provides and launders all bed linen. The school does not pay for a boy's personal laundry. Many boys send their laundry home by parcel post in special laundry mailing boxes, but in order to accommodate families who do not wish this arrangement, the school makes arrangements with a good local laundry to make collections and deliveries once a week.

HEALTH

Medical Examinations: The school does not submit the boys to periodic physical or medical examinations, unless in case of illness or accident, or unless specifically requested by the parents. Accordingly, parents should inform the school in writing of any physical condition, as for example, a heart condition or hernia, which might make it necessary to limit a boy's participation in athletics. The school entrance application form provides an opportunity for giving this information. Experience has shown that it is wise to have a boy's eyes and teeth thoroughly examined within a reasonably short time before the opening of each school year. Parents are requested to arrange, whenever possible, to have all doctor, dentist, oculist, and other important appointments made during vacation periods.

Physician and Nurse: The school has an experienced trained nurse in residence. The Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, ten minutes away, is available in emergency cases. This hospital is recognized as a Grade A institution by the American College of Surgeons. The school physician, Dr. Carleton W. Bullard of Newburyport, is a graduate of Harvard College and the Medical School of Harvard University. Boston specialists are within easy call.

All boys are instructed to report any sickness or accident to the school infirmary. It is the policy of the school to call the school physician to examine and treat all cases about which there is the slightest doubt in the nurse's mind. If any boy is confined to the infirmary overnight, it is an established rule of the school to report this fact to his parents at once, even though the matter is not serious. In case of any serious illness, the school will keep in constant touch with the boy and his parents.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vacations: Because a number of the boys have to travel long distances to reach home, the school observes none of the many traditional one-day holidays and instead has lengthened the annual Christmas and Easter vacations. The school calendar, announced at the beginning of each year, will include dates of the Thanksgiving, Christmas and spring vacations.

Parents are urgently requested not to ask special permission for their sons to leave school early or to return late at vacation periods, nor to leave before the close of the Commencement Exercises. It is very difficult to grant such a request, not

only because boys cannot easily afford to lose school time nor the school to interrupt its routine, but also because it is difficult to give special permission to one boy which is not granted to others.

Report Letters: The headmaster or the registrar writes report letters to the parents regularly three or four times each year, and more frequently when it seems advisable. The first report is written after the first four or five weeks of school, and is sent only to the parents of new boys. Three regular reports are sent to all parents, one during the Christmas recess, one during the spring recess, and another after the close of school in June. These report letters are not necessarily limited to the boy's scholastic work, but are often concerned with other phases of his school life and personal development.

Telephone Calls: Parents are requested to limit the number of telephone calls to their sons so far as is practicable. Boys cannot be called from classes or study halls to answer the telephone, and it is usually an inconvenience to the boy to be called from the athletic field or the dining hall. Necessary calls can be best made in the half-hour directly following the evening meal at school. A boy always has permission to telephone home, and it is better to have telephone calls originate from the school. Do not hesitate to call the headmaster at any time, or to request the school office to deliver messages to your son.

Rooms and Pictures: The school has made an effort to provide unusually homelike and attractive boys' rooms, and it expects that each boy will take an interest in decorating his room and will exercise care in using it. Each boy is urged to bring two or three good framed pictures. Banners are not permitted. All pictures and decorations must be such as can be suspended from the picture moulding, since the use of thumbtacks or sticking tape on the walls is not permitted.

Boys are not permitted to have motor vehicles of any kind at the school. No electric irons, toasters, or similar appliances are permitted in the boys' rooms. Boys are not permitted to have firearms at the school, except under the regulations of the Rifle Club.

Radios and victrolas are not permitted except in the masters' rooms and in the school store. There is a large electric phonograph in the living room of the Phillips Building. This phonograph, together with 615 selected records, is the gift of the Carnegie Foundation.

Visits to School: Parents are welcome at the school at any time. Sunday afternoon is a particularly good time for parents to visit their sons, since this is the time when boys are least likely to have engagements.